Recruitment by R.R.B., Guwahati

2490. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that in the demand made by the Railway Recruitment Board, Guwahati in the recent past, for technical/non-technical posts, the educated persons from Assam were neglected, while priority was given to persons from other States; and

(b) if so, the reasons therefore and the details of technical and non-technical staff employed recently?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Operationalisation of Mehsana-Viramgam rail line

2491. DR. A.K. PATEL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) what is the projected time-period in which the Mehsana-Viramgam rail line would be fully operational as broad gauge; and

(b) the details of funds provided to achieve the said objective, in relation to the projected time-period?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI BANDARU DATTATRAYA): (a) and (b) The target date for conversion of Viramgam-Mehsana has not yet been fixed. However, the section is expected to be converted to broad gauge during 2004-05 depending upon progress of Build Own Transfer contractor. The approximate expenditure incurred on this project upto 31.3.2002 is Rs. 15.89 crore and an outlay of Rs. One Crore has been provided for this project in the Budget 2002-2003.

Conversion of Rajkot-Veraval rail line

2492. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the physical and financial progress with respect to conversion of the Rajkot-Veraval rail line into broad gauge;